MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The appointment of members to committees is usually made by the Government on their own initiative, and sometimes on the recommendation of other bodies. In the case of the Excise Committee, the first course was adopted.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Was there any particular reason in taking the course adopted by the Government?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Then, what was the particular reason for adopting this course?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Two courses were open to the Government, and one of the courses was adopted. There was no particular reason why the other course was not adopted.

Claims of Mr. R. Gopala Menon for Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil's Place.

177. MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether Mr. R. Gopala Menon, Sirkar Vakil, Parur, was an applicant for the Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil's place vacated by Mr. Bhaskara Menon? If so, why were his claims overlooked in filling this vacancy?

(*b*) How many years' service has Mr. Gopala Menon put in? What is his present pay?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that Mr. T. R. Raghunatha Aiyangar acted only for a short period as District Court Sirkar Vakil on Rs. 150 when Mr. Gopala Menon was drawing Rs. 250 as permanent Sirkar Vakil for several years?

(*d*) Is it a fact that, when the question of filling the vacancy of the Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil was taken up, the Head Sirkar Vakil, who was on leave, was consulted, and he declared that Mr. R. Gopala Menon was unfit for the vacant place?

(*e*) Has the Head Sirkar Vakil declared the inefficiency, if any, of Mr. R. Gopala Menon on any previous occasion?

(*f*) Has the Head Sirkar Vakil ever revised any written statement of Mr. R. Gopala Menon in Sirkar cases, and, if so, in which cases?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the person recently appointed as an Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil is a Travancorean, and whether there were not non-Brahmin Travancorean applicants for the place?

(*h*) Is it not a fact that Mr. R. Gopala Menon, Sirkar Vakil, Parur, is senior to Mr. A. Venkata Row, Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Mr. Gopala Menon was an applicant for the place and his case was duly considered in filling the vacancy.

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[Mr. M. N. Pillai.]

(*b*) Mr. Gopala Menon has put in 17 years' service, of which his service as Sirkar Vakil is about 11 years. His present pay is Rs. 250.

(*c*) Mr. Raghunatha Aiyangar acted as Sirkar Vakil on Rs. 250 per mensem for over a month from Karkatakam, 1096. Mr. Gopala Menon was drawing Rs. 250 for over a year previous to that date.

(*d*) The appointment of Mr. Raghunatha Aiyangar was made in consultation with the permanent Head Sirkar Vakil then on leave.

(*e*) Government have no information.

(*f*) All the written statements of Mr. Gopala Menon are reported to have been revised by the Head Sirkar Vakil.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) Mr. Gopala Menon is senior to Mr. Venkata Row as Sirkar Vakil.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The answer to question (*c*) is that Mr. Raghunatha Aiyangar acted as Sirkar Vakil on Rs. 250 per mensem for over a month. I would like to know, in the circumstances, why Mr. Gopala Menon, who was drawing Rs. 250 for over a year previous to Mr. Raghunatha Aiyangar acting as a Sirkar Vakil for a month on Rs. 250, was not appointed. What was the objection to the appointment of Mr. Gopala Menon?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There is no difference between the two appointments so far as their status is concerned.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): What I want——

PRESIDENT: Please hear him through. You have not heard what he has got to say.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The position of an Assistant Sirkar Vakil is exactly the same as that of a District Court Sirkar Vakil. The maximum pay is the same in both cases. We have to post Sirkar Vakils according to the exigencies of service. Mr. Gopala Menon was permanently employed at Parur.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): But Mr. Gopala Menon is already a permanent Sirkar Vakil, and when he applied for the place of Assistant Head Sirkar Vakil, what necessitated the Government's appointing Mr. Raghunatha Aiyangar to that particular place?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Mr. Gopala Menon was attached to the District Court, Parur. His status being the same, there was no necessity for transferring him.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Mr. Gopala Menon was attached to the Parur District Court; but Mr. Raghunatha Aiyangar was not attached to any District Court. I want to know why Mr. Gopala Menon was not taken in though he had applied for the place.

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MR R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Because the appointment was temporary, and it was thought undesirable to transfer Mr. Gopala Menon from Parur to Trivandrum in the temporary vacancy.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether Mr. Raghunatha Aiyangar is a born subject of His Highness the Maha Raja?

PRESIDENT: It does not arise from that. There is another interpellation with regard to that.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): It arises out of part (*g*). In answer to that question, I want to know whether Mr. Raghunatha Aiyangar is a born subject of His Highness the Maha Raja.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): May I know the question?

PRESIDENT: He wants to know whether Mr. Raghunatha Aiyangar is a born subject of His Highness the Maha Raja.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He is a domiciled subject of His Highness the Maha Raja.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): If he is a domiciled subject, how do the Government know that he does not desire to go back to his native place? (*Laughter.*) I want to get an answer to that.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid you have to ask Mr. Raghunatha Aiyangar whether he intends to stay here or not.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I do not get an answer from the Chief Secretary.

PRESIDENT: I do not think your question is capable of being answered by him.

Coupes sold in 1098.

178. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad cum Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(1) the number and names of coupes sold during 1098 M E. and the objects with which they were sold;

(2) the number and names of such coupes which have served the objects with which they were sold, and the number which have not so served, with reasons, in each case?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(1) The following statement gives the information required by the member:—

(i) Central Division—Kadiyar coupe. For the extension of teak plantations.

(ii) Shencottah Division Edapalam coupe, Aryankavu. For the extension of teak plantations.

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